

WEST VIRGINIA
-ELECTION CONNECTION-
Your source for Election News from Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant

Issue 42 – July 31, 2012

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14 Weeks Until Election Day!

On Tuesday, July 31, there will be exactly 14 weeks until the November 6 General Election!

State Election Commission Webcasts

Please remember that all meetings of the State Election Commission (which consists of chairman Dr. Robert Rupp, Gary Collias, Bill Renzelli, and Secretary Tennant) are webcast live on the Secretary of State's website. On the agenda for the August 8 meeting is the withdrawal of several candidates.

You can watch live here: <http://www.sos.wv.gov/news/Pages/webcast.aspx>.

You don't need to download any special software to view it. Just go to that page and click on the "play" button and you will be able to see the live streaming feed.

We always send out alerts to the public via Facebook and Twitter that include a link to the webcast.

Important Dates Coming Up

- **August 1:** Deadline for Minor Party and Independent Candidates to File Nominating Petitions, Certificate of Announcements and Pay Filing Fee (Not later than the first day of August preceding the general election)
 - o Minor party and independent candidates for president must file nominating petitions with the Secretary of State's Office. The Secretary of State will then forward the appropriate nominating petitions to the appropriate counties in order for signatures to be examined for validity. Counties will report to the Secretary of State the number of valid signatures and return petitions upon completion of the examination. (§ 3-5-23, 3-5-24)

- **August 6 - 21:** Special Filing Period, Board of Education, Vacancy Occurring after Close of Filing for Primary Election (No earlier than the first Monday in August and no later than seventy-seven days before the general election)
 - o Candidate filing period for un-expired term of Board of Education to fill vacancy occurring after the close of candidate filing but not later than eighty-four days before general election. (§ 3-5-19(c))
- **August 7 (Deadline):** Notice of Emergency Precinct Change (At least one month before entering emergency order to change precinct line)
 - o Last day county commission may complete notice to change, divide or consolidate voting precincts for general election in cases of emergency and with permission of Secretary of State (sixty days - September 7 - plus one month notice). (§ 3-1-7(g), 59-3-1)
- **August 8 (Deadline):** Deadline for Ordering Precinct Change (Not within ninety days next preceding general election)
 - o Last day for county commission to enter an order changing the boundaries of any precinct into two or more precincts, or consolidate two or more precincts into one, or to change the location of the polling place whenever the public convenience may require it. Within 15 days after such order is issued, after at least one month's notice, the county commission shall publish the order as a Class II-0 legal advertisement. Notice of the precinct change must be given one month prior to entering this order – July 8, 2012. (§ 3-1-7(b))
- **August 8:** Petition for Suspension of Election Official (At least ninety days prior to an election date.)
 - o Last day for petition to be filed with county commission seeking the suspension of an election official; petition signed by 25 registered voters of precinct where election official last served. Upon presentation of evidence of listed grounds, commission may, upon majority vote, suspend the eligibility to serve as an election official for 2 years. County commission may, on its own motion, suspend an election official for specific causes for 4 years. (§ 3-1-28(c))
- **August 8 (Deadline):** Adopt Policy Extending Medical Emergency Absentee Voting (At least ninety days prior to the election affected)
 - o Last day county commission may adopt policy extending the emergency absentee voting procedures to: (1) hospitals or other duly licensed health care facilities within an adjacent county or within thirty-five miles of the county seat; or (2) nursing homes within the county. Copy of this policy must be filed with the Secretary of State. (§ 3-3-5c(a))
- **August 14 (Deadline):** Notice of Number of Election Officials. (At least eighty-four days before the election)
 - o The county commission designates the number and type of election boards for the various precincts and gives written notice to the county executive committees of the two major political parties of the number of nominations which may be made for poll clerks and commissioners. Recommend county clerk notify executive committees of number of

emergency absentee voting commissioners to nominate at same time. (§ 3-1-29, 3-3-5c)

- **August 14 (Deadline):** Vacancy for Specific Causes (Not later than eighty-four days before the general election)
 - o Last day of occurrence of vacancy on ballot resulting from disqualification or incapacity of candidate, or from death of incumbent in certain elected offices not otherwise up for election in order for executive committee to appoint to fill vacancy. (§ 3-5-19(a) & (b))
- **August 14, 2012:** Last Day to Apply for Withdrawal for Extenuating Circumstances (No later than eighty-four days before the general election)
 - o Last day for candidate to apply for withdrawal due to extenuating personal circumstances which will prevent the candidate from serving if elected in order to permit application for authorization to fill vacancy on ballot to be considered. (§ 3-5-19(a))
- **August 14 – October 31:** Application For Absentee Ballot Accepted from Uniformed and Overseas Voters and From All Other Voters
 - o Received not earlier than January 1 of an election year for uniformed and overseas voters and not earlier than eighty four days preceding the election for all other voters, and not later than the sixth day preceding general election. An eligible voter may make written application by mail to the clerk for official absent voter's ballot(s). (§ 3-3-1(b)(3), 3-3-5(b)(1))

New Election Official Guided Training from FVAP

New Election Official Guided Training from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is now available. This is a 30 minute training course for all interested local election officials who would like to learn more about the UOCAVA process, including challenges faced by military and overseas voters, the various applications available in addition to our state forms, processing information and tips on ways to communicate information to military and overseas voters. It is useful to the seasoned election officials as well as the new ones. For more information, follow this link to FVAP's website: <http://www.fvap.gov/leo/reference.html>.

Regional Election Meeting Agenda

A special thanks to everyone who attended the regional meetings. They were a great success! We had very good attendance at each meeting and there was a lot of meaningful discussion about some very important topics. Remember, you can contact our office any time if you have questions or concerns.

SVRS Class Scheduled for August

The deadline to register for the SVRS class in Flatwoods has passed.

Remember, this is comprehensive instruction on the use, functions and best practices relating to the SVRS and how to execute them properly. The class will be six hours of instruction Monday, August 20 – Wednesday, August 23 9:00am – 4:00pm.

Thursday will be ½ day which will be used to provide an overview of what you have learned and a feedback forum before you leave. To get the most out of this class you should plan to attend all 3 full days of class.

This will be quality instruction by Dave Tackett but in a “no frills” atmosphere. You will need to supply your own notepads, paper, pencils, etc. If you are able, please bring a laptop computer to class with you. Hands on exercises will be a part of the class. If you do not have a laptop please let us know. This class is for those who use the SVRS as part of their daily job function.

If you have questions, please contact Layna Brown at lbrown@wvsos.com.

Have an idea?

Is there something that you want to see addressed in the Election Connection? The goal of this newsletter is to keep everyone up to date about challenges facing election officials in West Virginia and to inform everyone about best practices that are being put into place. If you have an idea for a topic, have a question, or if you think there is a subject that election officials around the state would be interested in, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of State's Office. You can contact the Elections Division by email at elections@wvsos.com or (304) 558-6000 or Jake Glance directly at jglance@wvsos.com. Your input is appreciated.